

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

March 7, 2016

Mayor Donald W. Barnhart
City of Columbia Falls
130 6th Street West, Room A
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Re: Superfund National Priority List – Columbia Falls Aluminum Company

Dear Mayor and Councilmen:

I appreciate receiving your recommendation and notice of your unanimous vote supporting listing of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant (CFAC) on the National Priorities List. I share your desire to return the property to productive use, and I continue to support the method that results in a timely, protective cleanup of the site. At this point, and as I expressed last year, I believe that finalizing the NPL listing of the site is more likely to result in a comprehensive protective cleanup while providing the State and the community most input into the final cleanup decision.

DEQ Director, Tom Livers raised your request with EPA, and was informed that EPA has not yet made a decision on whether to proceed with finalizing the site on the NPL or using the Superfund Alternative Approach. EPA stated that it intends to look at this issue in the fall. While I remain concerned with the proposed "alternative approach," as it may limit the State's consultative role in the remedial process outlined in the Superfund rules and regulations, I have not made a final decision and will keep the community's interests in mind, including the letter provided by the Flathead County Board of Commissioners supporting an "alternative" Superfund approach for the CFAC.

Thank you again for contacting me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Steve Bullock in black ink.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Tom Livers, Director, Montana DEQ